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Approved For Release 2001/08/27 : CIA-RDP70T00666R000100010011-2

USCIB #4

14 January 1949

UNITED STATES COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE BOARD

DIRECTIVE NO. 4

(Revised as of 25 Oct. 1950)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE COMPARTMENTATION
OF COMINT INFORMATION

1. The protection of information from and about the various COMINT fields and tasks, especially technical information about the processes involved in production, requires that extraordinary precautions be taken in the conduct of the operations involved and in the dissemination of the information produced. The principle of the "need to know", which is axiomatic and basic in the field of Communications Intelligence, governs. The USCIB member organizations and operating agencies shall be governed in their operations and dissemination by the specific interpretations and expansions of that principle which are set forth hereinafter.
2. Precautions in operating agencies
 - (a) Operations in each COMINT field and task shall be sequestered and compartmented from other operations to the greatest extent practicable without undue detriment to operational efficiency and effectiveness. The principle of "the need to know" shall be applied with particular emphasis as it concerns access of personnel to and knowledge of operations within the operating agencies.
 - (b) Reports of progress in each general field of COMINT effort shall be separate from similar reports covering other fields and each shall be given separate distribution, carefully limited in the specific instance on the basis of "the need to know".
3. Precautions in dissemination and utilization of results.
 - (a) The clearance and indoctrination of a person to receive COMINT shall not be regarded as entitling him to receive COMINT from all fields and tasks, or even all COMINT from any one field or task, unless he specifically requires it. Insofar as practicable the lists of COMINT recipients which USCIB requires each member organization, and the USCIB Secretariat to maintain shall be subdivided to show the specific categories of information which each recipient receives on the basis

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of his specific "need to know". These lists and each of their subdivisions will be held to minimum size through frequent and critical review.

- (b) The clearance and indoctrination of a person to receive COMINT shall not be regarded as entitling him to receive detailed information of the specific technical successes and processes which have led to its production. Accordingly COMINT, as disseminated and distributed outside of operating agencies, shall, as far as practicable, be in such form that those recipients who are not otherwise informed would be unable to form inferences as to the technical implications of its production and the specific identity (in terms of cryptographic systems and types) of its sources.

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